

Online ESOL sites

GENERAL WEBSITES

1. **BBC Learn English** - huge variety of resources covering all skills. Useful for learners for self-study. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/>
2. **British Council - Teach English** (click on “try” for lesson plans and activities) <http://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/>
3. **British Council - Learn English** (self access for learners). <http://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/en/>
4. **ESI Flow**- portal to other sites, organised by topic <http://www.esiflow.com/>
5. **One stop English** – Macmillan’s site, but some useful ideas. <http://www.onestopenglish.com/esol/esol-lesson-plans/>
6. Sean Banville’s “**Famous people**” lessons. <http://www.famouspeoplelessons.com/>
7. Sean Banville’s “**Holiday**” lessons - well known and more obscure public holidays <http://www.eslholidaylessons.com/>
8. **Lanternfish** - Lots of worksheets <http://bogglesworldesl.com/>
9. IELTS preparation: “**Australia Network study English**”. A learner could either use it for self study or work through the modules with the tutor. <http://australianetwork.com/studyenglish/>
10. **Ted Power** English Language Learning and Teaching. <http://www.btinternet.com/~ted.power/>
11. **World-English**. <http://www.world-english.org/>

NEWS SITES

1. **ESL News NZ**- easy news read in NZ English <http://eslnews.org.nz/>
2. **Breaking news English** (intermediate) <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/>
3. **News English lessons** (pre-intermediate) <http://www.newsenglishlessons.com/>

CONVERSATION QUESTIONS

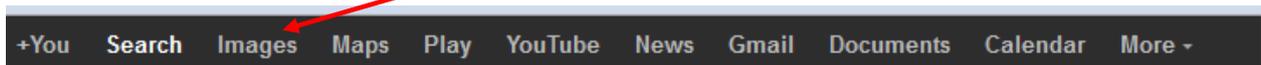
1. **Sean Banville’s discussion questions** – well thought out. <http://www.esldiscussions.com/>
2. **The ITESL journal questions**. Submitted by teachers all over the world. You may need to sift through them before using them. <http://iteslj.org/questions/>

TIP: to find resources, Google ESL + (topic heading): eg “ESL beginner shopping”

Suggestions for using real-life sites to teach ESOL

GOOGLE IMAGES

When using Google search, you can find pictures to illustrate what you are talking about by searching through “Google Images”



“Food shopping” brings up the following results:



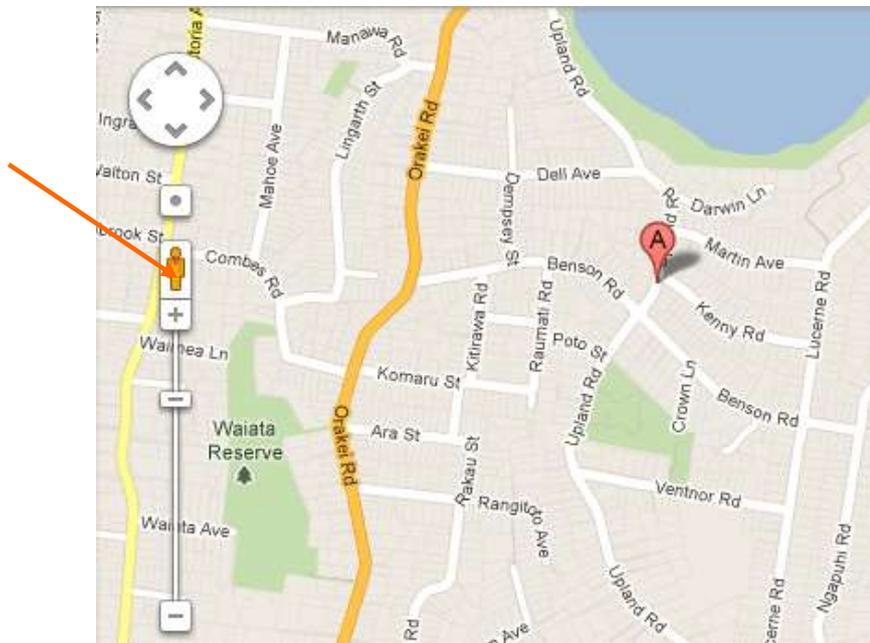
“Esl food shopping” brings up these results



You can click on an image and save it to your computer for use later.

GOOGLE STREET VIEW: <http://maps.google.co.nz/intl/en/help/maps/streetview/>

Google Maps with Street View lets you explore places around the world through 360-degree street-level imagery. You use it by taking the little orange man on the map and placing him where you want to go.



You can then go for a virtual tour of that area.



We are lucky that New Zealand is one of Street Views most thoroughly documented countries.

My neighbourhood

Use Street View to go for a virtual walk around your neighbourhood. Talk about what you see. This is great for practising a wide range of everyday vocabulary.

Alternatively you can talk about the neighbourhood first and then go and check on how good your memory was.

How do I get to ...?

Use Street View to practice directions.

Start at a given point on the map and give your learner directions to get to a destination. Then swap – your learner could give you directions from her home to the bus stop, for example.

Let's go on holiday

Plan a holiday – look at the Street view map to see where you could go.

<http://maps.google.co.nz/intl/en/help/maps/streetview/learn/where-is-street-view.html>

- Decide where you would like to visit.
- You could read a description of the destination and then go on a virtual visit to see the sights you have identified.
- If it is somewhere your learner has always wanted to visit, brainstorm where she wants to go and “visit” the sights.
- Alternatively you can simply go for a “stroll” and talk about your sightseeing.

Where I used to live

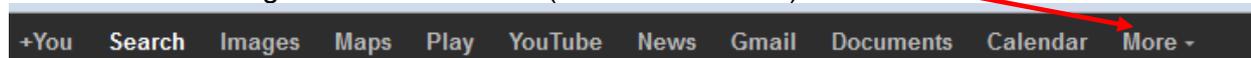
If you grew up outside Auckland, you can take your learner to your home town and talk about your childhood. Learners from Japan, Hong Kong, Taiwan, some parts of Korea, Brazil and Western Europe can do the same (but be sensitive to any sad feelings that might arise from this exercise)

Plan a trip

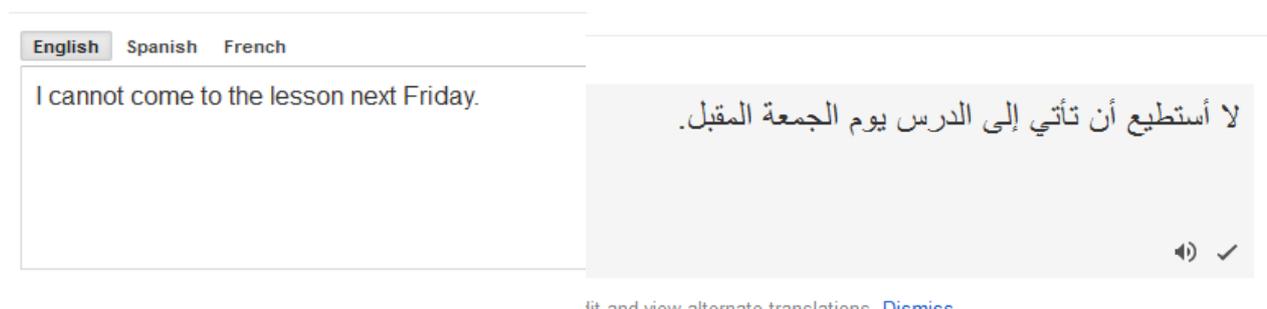
Plan a real life expedition in Auckland. Look ahead for bus stops, interesting sights and buildings, shops. Then go on the visit in real life .How did it compare?

GOOGLE TRANSLATE

Another useful Google tool is “Translate” (look under “More”)



which allows you to translate between languages – useful if you are not managing to make yourselves understood to each other, or for complete beginners. The translations are not grammatically perfect but you can usually convey or get the gist.



SUPERMARKET SITES E.G. COUNTDOWN <http://shop.countdown.co.nz/>

The screenshot shows the Countdown supermarket website's 'browse aisles' section. The header includes the Countdown logo and a banner for 'CHECK OUT THE RECIPES OF THE WEEK'. The navigation menu includes 'home', 'browse aisles', 'specials', 'recipes', and 'enter your onecard to generate favourites list'. The 'browse aisles' section is active, showing a list of categories on the left: Bakery, Deli & Chilled Foods, Fruit & Vegetables (selected), Ethnic Vegetables, Fresh Herbs, Fruit (highlighted), Apples, Apricots, Avocado, Bananas, Blackberries, Blueberries, Dates, Feijoas, Fruit Mix, Grapefruit, and Grapes. The main content area displays a grid of product listings for fresh produce, including 'Fresh Produce Apples Braeburn loose 1kg' for \$3.48, 'Fresh Produce Apples Braeburn Usa each' for \$0.99, 'Fresh Produce Apples Golden Delicious loose 1kg' for \$3.48, 'Fresh Produce Apples Granny Smith Imported loose 1kg' for \$4.48, 'Fresh Produce Apples Nz Beauty bag 1.5kg' for \$4.99, and 'Fresh Produce Apples Nz Beauty 1kg' for \$3.48. Each listing includes a quantity selector and an 'Add' button. The page also shows a search bar, a 'showing 1-15 of 93 items' indicator, and a 'show: 15 items per page' dropdown.

1. Look at the aisle names. Brainstorm the products you expect to find there. Then check whether they are actually available.
2. Practise numbers – prices, weights, volumes.
3. Compare prices – comparatives and superlatives - e.g. *x is the most expensive brand of baked beans, x is cheaper than y.*
4. Compile a shopping list with the products you usually buy.
5. Discuss a favourite recipe, then find the ingredients.
6. Choose some ingredients at random and then discuss how you would use them

WIKIPEDIA <http://www.wikipedia.org/>

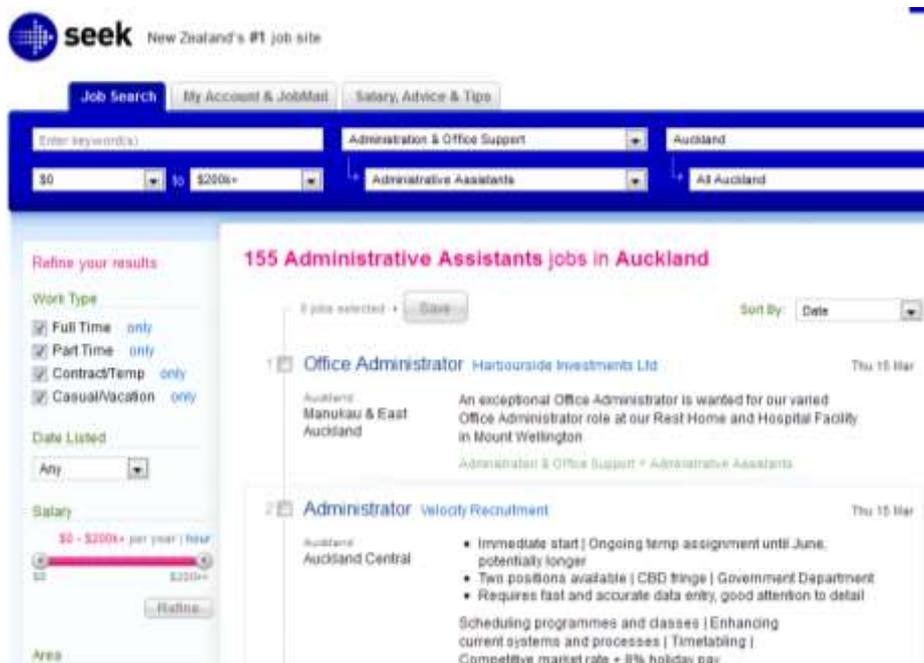
Choose a wiki site where your learner knows a lot about the subject.

Make a KWL chart (Things you already knows, things you want to know, then after reading things you have learned)

Read the Wiki entry. Does your learner agree? Did they learn something new?

SEEK.CO.NZ <http://www.seek.co.nz/>

If your learner is job hunting, you can use Seek to look at job ads in your learner's chosen work area.



1. Practise reading the ads and highlighting crucial information.
2. Discuss how this might relate to your learner's own experience
3. Teach key vocabulary from job ads.
4. Use the vocabulary in the job ads to feed into your learner's CV

Use the advice sections <http://www.seek.co.nz/jobs-resources/?cid=sk:main:nz:tab:tools> to:

- create a CV
- practice covering letters
- practice interviews using the interview tips.

TED TALKS <http://www.ted.com/>

High level learners may enjoy listening to talks in English on a wide variety of subjects.

Many of the talks have subtitles in other languages, or in English. Your learner could listen to the talk with subtitles at first, and when they feel they have understood they could try listening to the talk without subtitles.

Encourage your learner to tell you about the talk.

Listeners are invited to comment on the talks. Your learner could also read the comments and tell you her opinions about the subject.

ONLINE FORUMS

Discuss with your learner what they are interested in – e.g. cooking, music, sport.

Locate a relevant forum (preferably choose a moderated one as unmoderated forums can get a bit aggressive or display bad language) and register if you wish to participate.

You can then use the forum for reading or writing practice.

<http://www.discusscooking.com/>

<http://www.musicbanter.com/>

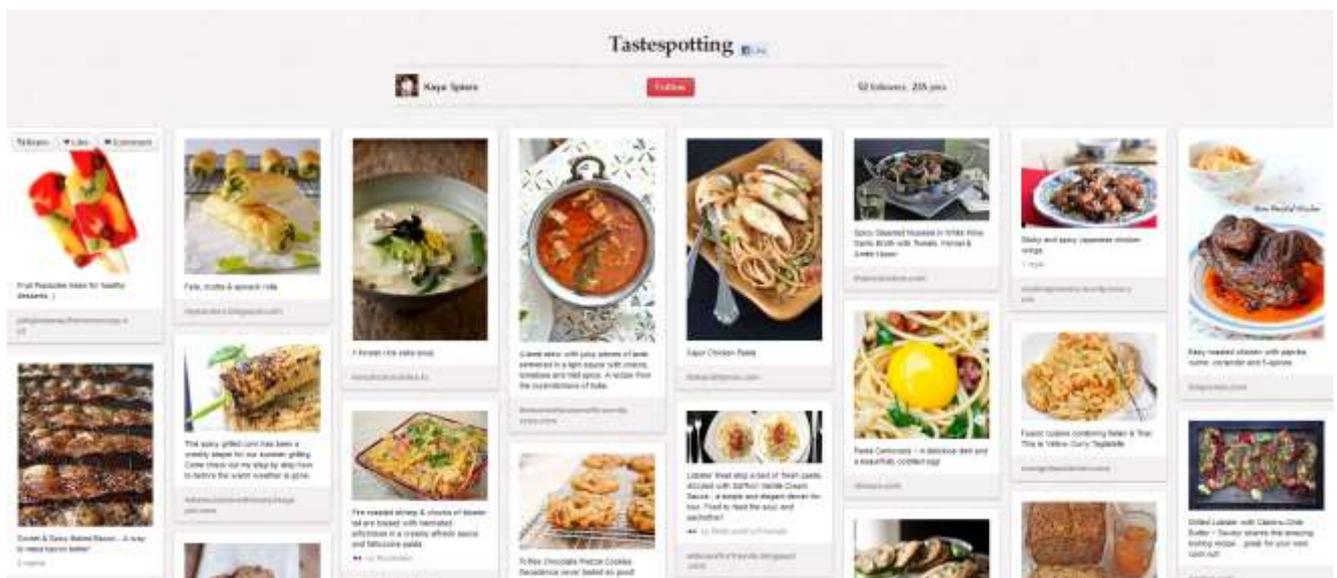
<http://www.movieforums.com/community/>

<http://www.soccerforum.com/>

If your learner is unused to having a presence on the internet, discuss some basic safety rules to maintain privacy and anonymity.

PINTEREST www.pinterest.com

If your learner enjoys surfing the Web, and has interests such as travel or crafts, or cooking, she can create a Pinterest account. Pinterest is a pinboard-style social photo sharing website that allows users to create and manage theme-based image collections such as events, interests, hobbies and more. Users can browse other pinboards for inspiration, re-pin' images to their own collections and/or 'like' photos.



Creating pinboards can provide good reading practice, and then the tutor and learner can enjoy chatting about their respective pinboards, describing the pictures and explaining why they are interesting.